

Iowa Prairie Network Newsletter

Fall 2017



Iowa Prairie Heritage Week – **SEPT. 10-16, 2017**

Submitted by Tenlea Turner

Since 1983, by proclamation of Iowa's Governor, the second week of September has been designated as Iowa Prairie Heritage Week (IPHW) to celebrate the unique and endangered tallgrass prairie ecosystem that once covered most of our state. Each year government and non-governmental agencies and organizations across the state plan events to help educate the public of the past, present, and future of our natural heritage.

Iowa Prairie Network has played an integral part in the renewal of the Proclamation for several years and supports and promotes these special events during IPHW, and throughout the month of September. Previous years' events have included prairie walks, seed collection, monarch tagging, seminars, and recreational activities. There's something for everyone young and old. ***Come join us on the prairie!***

Check the following list of dates for **September** to find an event near you. Additional information can be found at www.iowaprairienetwork.org

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Date	Time	Event
8	6 – 7:30 pm	Monarch Tagging in the Prairie , Sioux City Prairie – Participate in monarch tagging activities
9	1 – 3 pm	Monarch Tagging , Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt, Maxwell, IA – Participate in monarch tagging activities. Organized by IPN Region 5
10	2 – 3:30 pm	Wildflower Prairie Walk , Sioux City Prairie – Organized by IPN Region 1, Iowa Native Plant Society, and Loess Hills Wild Ones
13	5:30 pm	Happy Hour Harvest , Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt, Maxwell, IA – Seed collection followed by food and drinks at Founders Irish Pub in Bondurant.
	5:30 – 7:30 pm	Make New Memories at Vincent Bluff Prairie , Council Bluffs, IA – Organized by IPN Region 4 – Ridgetop hike, seed collection and dispersal, learn about butterflies.
13 14	1 pm – 8:30 pm 8 am – 4 pm	2017 Quad Cities Pollinator Conference , River Center, Davenport, IA – Informational sessions on Bees, Butterflies & Beyond; Woodlands & Wetlands; and Crafting Conservation. Plus, opportunities to participate in community conservation projects.
14	5:30 – 7 pm	INHF Hike the Prairie , Kothenbeutel Prairie, Sheffield, IA – Guided tour of this stunning 40-acre native prairie preserve featuring over 200 plant species and a diverse array wildlife.
16	10 – 11:30 am	IPN Region 5 Prairie Walk , 11374 West 124 th St North, Collins, IA – Landowner Paul Lengeling will share his prairie remnant restoration and management experiences.
	1 – 3 pm 5:30 – 8:30 pm	IPN Region 6 Prairie Event , Pleasant Lake near Fairfield, IA – Birding expert Diane Porter and insect enthusiast Moni Haynes. FWCC Prairie Picnic , Annett Nature Center, Indianola, IA – Friends of Warren County Conservation annual fundraiser; live music, happy hour, catered meal, live and silent auctions. To register contact Karen at 515-961-6169 Ext 206.
17	12 – 4 pm	Monarch Festival , Blank Park Zoo, Des Moines, IA – The festival highlights the miraculous migration of the monarch butterfly and will offer everything from traditional Mexican dancing, puppet shows, monarch tagging and habitat education to free seeds (limited supply) to start your own butterfly garden.
20	9 am – 12 pm	Monarch Habitat on Farms Demonstration Days , Renewable Farm, Cedar Falls, IA – Hands-on demonstrations, activities, and information about installing and managing native habitat for monarchs and other wildlife on farms.

Look for more events on page 3, and remember to check the IPN website calendar for more details!



Linda Scarth

Written by Dianne Blankenship

The sad reality of life is that from time to time we must bid a final farewell to those we know and love. The time has come to say farewell to Linda Scarth - a dear friend of IPN and the conservation community in general. Linda lost her battle with cancer on July 3, 2017. We wish to extend our deepest condolences to all whose lives she touched.

Linda and her husband Robert were participants in numerous field trips throughout Iowa and would be seen off to the side, with their elaborate photo equipment, getting set up for the perfect shot. She was a delight to know, and her dedication to all of their interests was beyond remarkable. In 2015 for four months they visited the Althea R. Sherman Chimney Swifts' Tower during the nesting period. They provided many programs using those photos and were featured in Iowa Outdoors. With her husband, she has had an impact on so many. Linda will be greatly missed by so many who love the birds and plants and all of nature in Iowa.

She and Robert are best known for their beautiful close-up photographs published in 2009 in *Deep Nature: Photographs from Iowa*. The photos were accompanied by an essay by ecologist John Pearson, and celebrated the beauty of nature in our remnant prairies, woodlands, and wetlands. Photos from the book will be on exhibit at the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art beginning in January.

Donations in her honor may be made to the groups in which she was most active: the Iowa Native Plant Society, Cedar Rapids Audubon Society, Iowa City Bird Club, Althea R. Sherman Chimney Swifts' Tower Project, and Prairie States Mushroom Club.

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"Then I discovered the prairie, and a slow healing began."

Stephen R. Jones, *The Last Prairie*



Have you registered your prairie or garden with Plant.Grow.Fly. yet?



Help *Plant.Grow.Fly.* reach its goal of 1,000 registered pollinator gardens by the end of 2017, and mention IPN on your registration form! Blank Park Zoo is offering discounted zoo membership to PGF Gardeners when they register their garden!

www.plantgrowfly.org

IPN has 166 members that share an enthusiasm for prairies! Consider joining today!

Name(s): _____

Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____ County: _____

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Membership Levels & Dues (check one):

- Student Free; *please provide a valid school email address or ID*
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- Prefer to receive newsletters via e-mail at the address listed above \$0
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- IPN is an IRS approved 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization*

Please make checks payable to:

Iowa Prairie Network
 c/o Edward M. Sibley, Treas. 4015 Sergeant Road, Sioux City, IA 51106
The membership form can also be downloaded from our website – click “Join Us”

Don't forget to *RENEW* your membership! Go to www.iowaprairienetwork.org. Thank you!
 New member and renewal payments can be made online through **PayPal!**

The Iowa Prairie Network is a grass-roots, volunteer organization that is dedicated to the preservation of Iowa's prairie heritage. IPN was formed in 1990 by Iowans concerned that our prairie heritage was disappearing. People needed an organization that would bring those who know about prairie together with those who wanted to learn, to form a network of advocacy for Iowa's natural heritage.

Fall 2017 Events

Upcoming Events – check the IPN calendar for details, updates and more events! www.iowaprairienetwork.org

September	21	4:30 – 6:30 pm	Monarch Habitat on Farms Demonstration Days , J.H. Roadman Memorial Park, Dike, IA – Hands-on demonstrations, activities, and information about installing and managing native habitat for monarchs and other wildlife on farms.
	23	Various times	Loess Hills & Heritage Week , Sept. 23 – Oct 1 – Go to www.visitloesshills.org for details
	28	2 – 7 pm	IPN Region 1 Seed 'n Feed , Prairie Hills, Plymouth County – 2:00 pm seed collecting party, with a light dinner for the seed harvesters at 5:30pm.
October	1	1 pm	Martha Skillman Birthday Hike and Pie Tasting , Hickory Hills Park, New Virginia, IA (intersection of Hwy 69/G76) – Prairie hike and pie tasting (bring your favorite pie). Followed by a visit to Martha's Prairie. Questions? Contact Pam White at 641-673-3508
	11	5:30 pm	Happy Hour Harvest , Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt, Maxwell, IA – Seed collection followed by food and drinks at Founders Irish Pub in Bondurant. Sponsored by Polk County Conservation Board
November	18	10 am	Woodland Restoration Work Day , Easter Lake, Des Moines, IA – Removing invasive species. Sponsored by Polk County Conservation Board



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IPN's Mission: To Learn About, Teach About, Enjoy, and Protect Iowa's Prairie Heritage

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We use our Facebook Page and Group to share prairie-related news and updates. Join our online community!

 www.facebook.com/IowaPrairieNetwork

 [@iowaprairienetwork](https://www.instagram.com/iowaprairienetwork)